

November 26, 2013

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 5820-edited_final.doc).

Title: Colorectal cancer biomarkers: to be or not to be? Cautionary tales from a road well travelled

Authors: Kim YC Fung, Edouard Nice, Ilka Priebe, Damien Belobrajdic, Alope Phatak, Leanne Purins, Bruce Tabor, Celine Pompeia, Trevor Lockett, Timothy E Adams, Antony Burgess, Leah Cosgrove

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

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The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

1 Format has been updated.

2 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer

- (1) Thus, I would expect more information on the current status of biomarkers in the early detection (or perhaps even follow-up) of colorectal cancers: shall we use them and if so, which biomarkers shall we use; you talk about 30 FDA-approved biomarkers, but you do not mention them, which are relevant for CRC? What are their pros and cons, sensitivity, specificity, PPV, NPV etc.

RESPONSE: We have incorporated additional text in the Introduction section detailing the biomarkers that are best characterized for colorectal cancer, their current status (eg, in clinic, in development, research phase only) and their intended use (diagnostic or prognostic). Additional references have been added as necessary.

- (2) One very small minor comment: You introduce the abbreviation CRC in the abstract, but this abbreviation has to be introduced also in the body of the text, i.e. in the first sentence of the introduction.

RESPONSE: We have defined this abbreviation where it is first mentioned in the body of the text.

3 Figures have been provided as a powerpoint file as requested by the editor. Figures were generated in GraphPad Prism and cannot be decomposed any further.

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

Sincerely yours,

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